

Nancy Krupiasz

Senate Bill 555 Michigan Trails and Greenways License Plate

Michigan Trail Facts

- ◆ **Michigan is #1 in the U.S.** with 2,478 miles of open multi-use trail. (WI and MN are second and third)
- ◆ 38% of Michigan's trails are state-owned (and locally managed) and the rest are owned by local jurisdictions (County, township, city)
- ◆ 45% of Michigan's multi-use trails are paved, 13% are a crushed stone surface, and the rest are yet undeveloped
- ◆ There is a great potential to link existing trails together across the state which will bring encourage many more out of state visitors. The 5 Great Lake to Lake Trails are just one model (see Great Lake-to-Lake Trail Brochure). The longer a trail is, the more likely they will visit from out of state.

Relevant Trail Studies

- ◆ A National Association of Home Builders study in 2008 found that trails are the most desired community amenity when seeking a home.
- ◆ Businesses along the Hart-Montague Trail found that their sales revenues increased 25-30 percent within the first 6 months of the trail's existence.
- ◆ An estimated 800,000 trips are taken annually on the Great Allegheny Passage, a 141-mile system of biking and hiking trails from Cumberland, MD to Homestead, PA. Annual direct spending attributed to trail users was \$40.8 million in 2008. Total annual wages attributed to trail user spending: \$7.5 million. Seventy-seven percent of the businesses that opened in 2007 along the trail are still in operation today. Business owners attribute 25% of revenues to their proximity to the trail.

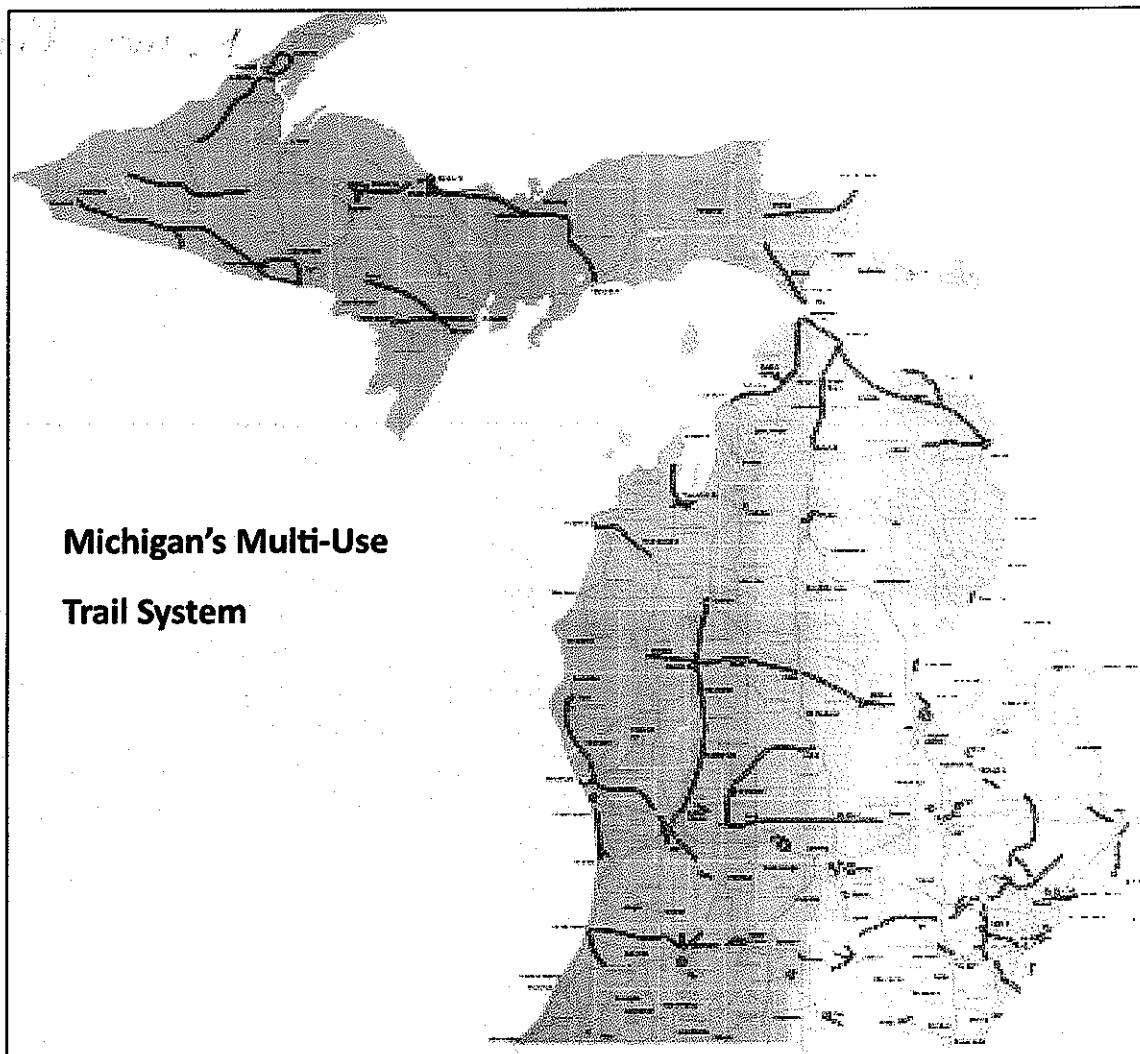
Michigan Trails Need:

1. **To be connected to each other and to destinations.** The Great Lake to Lake Trail from South Haven to Port Huron is a 250+ mile potential cross state trail, linking up 15 existing trails and 78 local jurisdictions through the most densely populated areas of the state. Four other "Great Lake to Lake Trails" which would connect one Great Lake to another are conceptualized, which will be an attraction for out-of-state visitors. Connections to Michigan's state and local parks will also enhance those existing facilities and encourage park visits.
2. **To be developed.** There are at least 749 miles of rail-trail needing to be surfaced which could enable far more uses.
3. **To be maintained.** There are too few dollars available to maintain trails, but they are one of the most popular community amenities considered when buying a home. Volunteer programs can help, but public awareness is necessary to encourage citizen involvement and stewardship.
4. **More visibility.** Michigan trails quietly exist in communities with no directional signage, no coordinated statewide promotion, and a lack of user-friendly information to facilitate and encourage their use.

A Michigan Trails and Greenways license plate will:

- ◆ *Enable Michigan citizens to contribute towards Michigan's statewide trail system and*
- ◆ *Promote our statewide trail system both in and out of state*

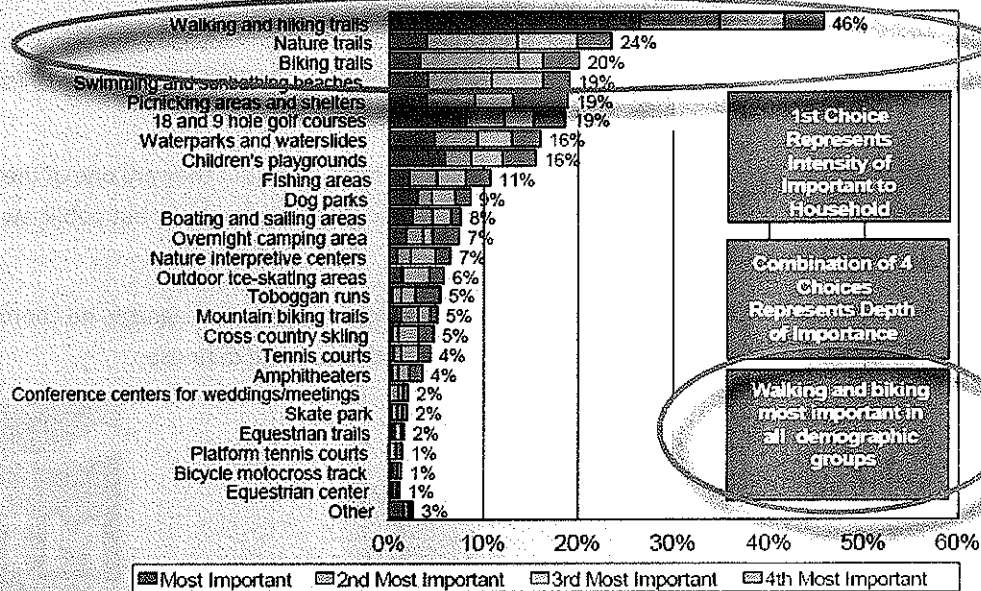




Michigan's Multi-Use Trail System

Q11. Parks and Recreation Facilities That Are Most Important to Respondent Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the item as one of their top four choices



Source: Leisure Vision/ETC Institute (December 2006)

Oakland County residents voiced their vote for trails as important community amenities in the Oakland County Trails Master Plan in 2008.